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OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ON EAST-TIMOR

In relation to the responsabilities constitutionally attributed to the President of the Republic and to the Prime Minister they have analysed the last developments concerning the East-Timor issue and have considered the following points:

1. In accordance with Resolution No. 37/30 of the United Nations General Assembly the East-Timor question is explicitly committed to the International community responsability in its whole. Thus, the U.N. Secretary-General has been mandated to initiate consultations with all parts interested in order to find effective ways to achieve a complete solution for East-Timor problem.

2. Portugal is internationally recognised as the administrating power of the region.

3. The conflict between Indonesian forces and Timorese has consistently become an ever growing concern for important parliamentary areas of several countries and it has been the object of specific interventions by members of the American and Australian Governments.

4. The same can also be said of numerous non-governmental organisations concerned about Human Rights and whose activity the Portuguese State highly appreciates.

5. On the other hand Portugal cannot forbear mentioning its respect for the concern expressed by His Holiness the Pope John Paul II and also by the Portuguese and Indonesian Episcopates concerning this situation and the feelings of the Timorese people.

6. These positions are related to a situation that is, in fact, lived in East-Timor and which gives rise to continous apprehensions on the part of Portugal in relation to the integrity, cultural identity and dignity of a people with which during five centuries Portugal had maintained a very deep relation of friendship.

In the perspective of Portuguese historical responsabilities and as the administrating power, Portugal reaffirms its pledge towards the substantiation of the unalienable right of East-Timorese people to self-determination as defined by the principles and practises of the United Nations.

.../...

The objective that impels the Portuguese State in this issue is the moral necessity to contribute to a peaceful solution for this territory that would be representative of the aspirations of East-Timorese people and would also be recognised by the International Community.

In the consistent affirmation of the principles that guide the Nations Community Portugal expresses its consideration for the work done by the United Nations Secretary-General during his mandate and renews its willingness to dialogue with all the parts concerned in the respect for the principles formerly mentioned.
(Lisbon, 19th July 1984).

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